

SUBJECT: EMT-BASIC OPTIONAL SKILLS ACCREDITATION

Date: 5/01/09

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- I. **Authority:** Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Sections 1797.170, 1797.208, 1797.210, 1797.214, 1797.220, 1798.102 and 1798.104; California Code of Regulations, Chapter 2, Section 100064.
- II. **Purpose:** To establish the requirements for accreditation of optional skills for an EMT Basic (EMT-B).
- III. **Policy:** A certified EMT-B must be accredited by the County of San Diego Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in order to perform the EMT-B optional skills in San Diego County.
- A. To become accredited to perform optional skills in San Diego County, the following criteria must be met:
1. Possess a current State of California EMT-B Certificate.
  2. Possess a current CPR card (Health Care Provider/Professional Rescuer or equivalent).
  3. Successfully complete an optional skills training course approved by the County of San Diego EMS Medical Director.
- B. Upon successful completion of the requirements for optional skills accreditation, an accreditation card shall be issued that authorizes the EMT-B to perform the following:
1. Perform pulmonary ventilation by use of an Esophageal Tracheal Airway Device (ETAD)/Perilaryngeal airway.
  2. Obtain venous and/or capillary blood samples for the purpose of blood glucose determination.

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3. Use blood glucose measuring device
4. Administer the following medications:
  - a. Sublingual nitroglycerine
  - b. Oral aspirin
  - c. Intramuscular (IM) glucagon
  - d. Inhaled beta-2 agonists (bronchodilators)
  - e. IM or intranasal (IN) Naloxone
  - f. Subcutaneous (SC) epinephrine
- C. Accreditation shall be valid for as long as the following criteria are met:
  1. Current State of California EMT-B Certification is maintained.
  2. Current CPR card is maintained.
  3. The following continuing education (CE) requirements are maintained:
    - a. Attend a structured training session from a County of San Diego EMS approved CE provider and/or designee relative to optional skills, and demonstrate skills proficiency a minimum of once every six months.
    - b. Skills proficiency shall be documented on an EMT-B optional skills competency verification form, and maintained by the approved CE provider.
- D. The EMT-B optional skills accreditation will become inactive for any of the following:
  1. Failure to comply with CE requirements: The provider agency shall be responsible for notifying the employee and ensuring inactive status until the CE delinquency is resolved.
  2. Failure to maintain current EMT-B Certification.

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- a. Employing agency shall monitor status of employee certification.
  - b. Employing agency shall notify the assigned Authorized ETAD/Perilaryngeal Airway Medical Director of inactive status due to lapse in certification.
  - c. The provider agency shall be responsible for notifying its employees and assuring inactive status until certification issues are resolved.
3. ETAD/Perilaryngeal Airway Medical Director shall be responsible for notifying County of San Diego EMS of EMT-B personnel who are placed on inactive status on the first day of the month following the delinquency.
- E. Reactivation Process: An EMT-B with inactive optional skills accreditation may be reactivated by fulfilling the following requirements:
1. Inactive status due to –delinquent optional skills verification shall be resolved to the satisfaction of the ETAD/Perilaryngeal Airway Medical Director.
  2. The ETAD/Perilaryngeal Airway Medical Director shall be responsible for notifying County of San Diego EMS of EMT-B personnel who are removed from inactive status on the first day of the month following the reactivation.

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